

Listing and Amendment of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Network equipment for providing a connection to a local network, said local network comprising at least one software server, said network equipment comprising ~~a persistent memory for storing software wherein it comprises:~~

a memory for storing software;

~~communication~~ means for providing a connection to said local network~~[[,]] ; and~~

~~[[-]]~~ means for monitoring ~~the~~ a start up of the network equipment ~~in order to~~ detect a software start up failure, ~~and~~ ~~means for generating a software start up failure signal in response to the detection of a~~ detecting said software start up failure by the monitoring means, and for automatically sending a notification of the failure , said software start up failure signal being sent on the local network, wherein said notification is broadcast on the network for reception by said at least one software server, said software start up failure signal comprising information specifying at least two of: a nature of said software start up failure, an identification of replacement software to be downloaded, and an identification of a version of the software currently stored in the memory.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) ~~Equipment~~ The network equipment according to claim 1, wherein the software comprises at least one of the following:

~~[[-]]~~ a boot program~~[[,]] ;~~

~~[[-]]~~ configuration data~~[[,]] ; and~~

~~[[-]]~~ firmware.

4. (currently amended) ~~Equipment~~ The network equipment according to claim 3, wherein ~~[[,]]~~ the software ~~comprising~~ comprises said firmware, and the monitoring means ~~for monitoring the start-up~~ comprises:

[[-]] means for checking ~~the validity of~~ a current firmware verification pattern; and ~~[[,]]~~

[[-]] means for generating ~~a specific~~ said software start up failure signal when ~~this~~ said current firmware verification pattern is not valid.

5. (currently amended) ~~Equipment~~ The network equipment according to claim 1, wherein the monitoring means ~~for monitoring the start-up~~ comprises:

[[-]] means for calculating ~~the~~ a checksum of the ~~current~~ software ~~[[,]]~~ currently stored in said memory;

[[-]] means for comparing ~~this~~ said calculated checksum to a previously stored checksum ~~[[,]]~~ ; and

[[-]] means for generating the software start up failure signal when ~~this~~ said calculated checksum is not identical to the ~~stored one~~ previously stored checksum.

6. (currently amended) ~~Equipment~~ The network equipment according to claim 3, wherein, ~~said memory comprising firmware,~~ the monitoring means ~~for monitoring the start-up~~ comprises:

[[-]] means for checking ~~the~~ for a presence of the firmware in the memory means, ;

[[-]] means for rebooting the ~~stand-alone~~ network equipment ~~when no~~ if the firmware is not stored in the memory ~~[[,]]~~ ; and

[[-]] means for generating ~~[[a]]~~ said software start up failure signal ~~when no~~ if the firmware is not stored in the memory means.

7. (currently amended) ~~Equipment~~ The network equipment according to claim 1, wherein the monitoring means ~~for monitoring the start up~~ comprises:

[[-]] means for ~~checking the~~ monitoring downloading of replacement software in the memory[[,]] ; and

[[-]] means for rebooting the network equipment and means for generating [[a]] said software start up failure signal ~~when~~ if a problem is detected during this said downloading.

8. (currently amended) ~~Equipment~~ The network equipment according to claim 3, wherein the software comprises said firmware, and the network equipment comprises:

[[-]] means for writing a replacement firmware verification pattern corresponding to ~~the~~ replacement firmware downloaded in the memory, ~~when a~~ if said replacement firmware is properly recorded in this said memory.

9. (currently amended) ~~Equipment~~ The network equipment according to claim 1, wherein the monitoring means ~~for monitoring the start up~~ comprises:

[[-]] means for ~~checking the~~ monitoring a process of loading of a said software[[,]] in said memory; and

[[-]] means for rebooting the ~~stand-alone~~ network equipment and means for generating [[a]] said software start up failure signal ~~when~~ if a problem ~~appears~~ is detected during this said loading.

10. (currently amended) ~~Equipment~~ The network equipment according to claim 1, wherein the monitoring means ~~for monitoring the software start up~~ comprises:

[[-]] a timer to determine a ~~start up~~ time limit[[,]] for a software start up;

[[-]] means for launching the software start up, ~~said software being adapted to a start up end indication to the monitoring means after completion of the start up;~~ and

[[-]] means for generating [[a]] said software start up failure signal if the software start up is not completed before ~~the~~ an end of the time limit.

11. (currently amended) ~~Equipment~~ The network equipment according to claim 1, ~~wherein it further comprises~~ further comprising user ~~actionable~~ activation means connected to the monitoring means for enabling a user to manually request the a download of replacement software.

12. (currently amended) ~~Equipment~~ The network equipment according to claim 1, ~~wherein it further comprises~~ further comprising an alarm connected to the monitoring means for ~~notifying a~~ communicating the software start up failure to the user.

13. (currently amended) ~~Equipment~~ The network equipment according to claim 1, wherein the monitoring means ~~for generating a software start up failure signal~~ comprises:

[[-]] means for checking the a setting of a failure flag[[,]] ; and

[[-]] means for generating the software start up failure signal and for transmitting it the software start up signal on the local network in response to the ~~detection of a set~~ detecting that the failure flag is set.

14. (currently amended) ~~Equipment~~ The network equipment according to claim 1, wherein the an indication of the nature of the software start up failure comprises a series of status flags.

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for monitoring the a software start up ~~of a~~ for network equipment, the network equipment comprising a ~~persistent~~ memory for storing software and ~~communication means~~ a connector for providing a connection to a local network comprising at least one software server ~~this process~~ , said method comprising the steps of:

[[-]] monitoring the software start up ~~of~~ for the network equipment ~~in order to~~ detect a software start up failure[[,]] ;

[[~~-~~]] generating a software start up failure signal in response to ~~the detection of a start up~~ detecting said software start up failure[[~~,~~]] ; and

[[~~-~~]] automatically broadcasting the software start up failure signal on the local network for reception by said at least one software server, wherein the software start up failure signal comprises information specifying at least two of: a nature of said software start up failure, an identification of replacement software to be downloaded, and an identification of a version of said software currently stored in said memory.

17. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 16, wherein the software start up failure signal comprises a request to the at least one software server for the download of the replacement software in the memory.

18. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 16, wherein the software start up failure signal comprises an identification of the software start up failure for analysis by the at least one software server.